

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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saloon and prevented doing injury to the Union fleet. Only two vessels were in any manner damaged. One of the wheelboats of the Onondaga was blown to pieces by a torpedo, and the Onondaga was rendered leaky by a shot below her water mark; but there were no casualties among Admiral Porter's men. In recognition of the victory and in honor of Washington's birthday, a national salute was fired at Fort Strong by the navy at noon on the 22d inst.

Late private advices from London furnish additional details of the facts already published in the Herald relative to the rams and piratical vessels fitting out in Europe for the rebels. The Onondaga, at the date of latest accounts, put into the Spanish port of Ferrol, having not with considerable damage in the Bay of Biscay, after leaving the French coast. She was considered a failure. The United States steamer Niagara and a French steamer had gone to intercept her. A new rebel pirate, the Ajax, sailed from England some weeks ago, and three other vessels were shortly after one of which, the Hercules, in the Clyde, was about ready.

General Joe Johnston has been restored to command in the rebel army, and it is supposed that he will have command of the troops in Sherman's front.

The rebel House of Representatives passed the bill to put negroes in their armies on Monday last; but in the Senate it was defeated by the votes of the members from the Gulf States, and this action has brought down upon these Senators the wrath of the Richmond editors, who charge them, in furthest style, with proving treacherous to the common cause, and neglecting to take hold of the only element which remains for the salvation of the "confederacy."

To add weight to the arguments for enlisting the slaves, a letter from General Lee has been called into requisition, in which he says he thinks "the measure not only expedient, but necessary," as the white population is nearly exhausted. He is not in favor of impressing the negroes, but would call upon them to volunteer, and would guarantee freedom to such as entered the service.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the bill creating the office of Solicitor and Judge Advocate of the Navy was passed. The proposition to authorize Mr. Wm. H. Powell to paint a picture for the Capitol, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, was discussed till the expiration of the morning hour. The House bill relating to the measurement of vessels was passed. The remainder of the day, and also the evening session, were devoted to debate upon the joint resolution recognizing the State government of Louisiana.

In the House of Representatives the Senate bill appropriating \$4,000,000 to reimburse Missouri for war expenses was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Secretary of War was called on for information respecting the alleged enlistment of rebel prisoners of war in the United States service; also whether colored persons are required to have passes in order to leave the District of Columbia. The consideration of the bill amending the Enrollment act occupied the remainder of the session.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday bills were reported favorably to amend the charter of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company; also relative to sewerage and drainage in New York City; and the Senate first mill bill, which was passed. Bills were passed for the relief of the Shipbuilders and Seamen of New York; increasing the rates of pilotage in the port of New York; amending the act designating legal holidays; incorporating the Merchants' Exchange and News Room of this city; and for the relief of holders of unsecured bonds of the New York Erie Railroad Company. The Paid Fire Department bill was made the special order for next Thursday evening.

In the Assembly bills were passed to amend the charter of the Manhattan Fire Insurance Company; to improve Leonard street, Brooklyn; to enable State banks to change to National banks; also authorizing the trustees of the Seaman's Fund and Retreat of New York to borrow money. The annual report of the Commissioners of Emigration was presented.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Another meeting of our prominent citizens was held yesterday at the Custom House to perfect the arrangements for the grand celebration in this city of the recent great triumph of the national arm on land and water. Next Saturday, the 4th of March, which is expected to be observed as a pretty general holiday throughout the country, has been fixed upon as the time for the rejoicing ceremonies. On the afternoon of that day there will be an open air meeting in Union square, when addresses will be delivered by a number of distinguished speakers. National salutes will be fired, there will be a profuse display of flags, banners and other decorations, and a general ringing of bells, the military and various civic associations are expected to parade, and at night exhibitions of fireworks will take place.

The Senatorial Committee continued its investigations yesterday. The principal witness was City Inspector Boole, who testified concerning the workings of his department. The Committee adjourned to the 13th of March.

There were no new cases of special interest before Colonel Baker yesterday. Abraham Lyons, who was arrested the day before, was sent off to Washington in iron. Judge Bernard has issued a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Lyons, the result of which will probably be known in due time.

The annual commencement exercises of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College took place last evening at the Academy of Music, before a large audience. Professor Taylor, President of the Faculty, presented the diplomas to the graduating class, and addresses were delivered by him and other gentlemen. An excellent orchestra enlivened the proceedings.

Master William C. Hess, of Ward School No. 20, in the Seventeenth ward, has been declared by the examiners to be the successful candidate for the West Point cadetship, in the gift of J. Winthrop Chandler, Representative of the Seventh Congressional district of this State. It is said that the examination of Master Hess gave the utmost satisfaction.

Asron Jacobs and Morris Schlessinger, doing business in Astor street, were yesterday arrested and detained for examination on the charge of being the receivers of about twelve hundred dollars worth of twist, silk and cotton damask stolen from in front of a Warren street store on the 11th inst. John Howe, keeper of a place in the Bowery, was also arrested at the same time, on suspicion of having feloniously obtained a large quantity of worsted binding which had been sold to Jacobs.

Two men giving their names as John Gallagher and Charles Andrews were yesterday committed to the Tombs for trial on charges of stealing valuables from various houses while inspecting the different apartments under pretense of wishing to rent them.

John Howe, a paper box manufacturer, doing business at 29 1/2 Division street, committed suicide by hanging, in an attic of the building, on Friday evening. Business difficulties are said to have been the cause.

The old steamship *Moniana*, of over four thousand tons burden, belonging to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, was auctioned yesterday forenoon at the foot of G street, Greenpoint.

Drafting in Kings county was concluded yesterday, at least for the present, by the drawing in the Second Congressional district of the quotas for the Seventeenth and Eighteenth wards of Brooklyn and the towns of Flatbush, Flatlands and New Utrecht. Brooklyn will probably find a difficulty in realizing the number of fighting men required of her by the government from those who have been drafted during the past week, even with the additional one hundred per cent, as it is said that many of the young men of that city whose names were turned out of the wheel, immediately upon becoming aware of the fact, rushed over to New York and enlisted, thus securing the large bonuses, of which, as drafted recruits, they would have been deprived. The Kings county Board of Supervisors are expected to give to any drafted man six hundred dollars towards procuring a substitute for three years service, four hundred dollars for two years and three hundred dollars for one year.

By an accident on the Pennsylvania Railroad on Friday two persons were killed and seventeen wounded. There was a collision on the Pennsylvania and Erie Railroad on Tuesday. Result, the death of two persons, one of whom was burned in a most horrible manner, and the wounding of several others. There was also a collision on the New York Central on Thursday, by which five or six passengers were injured. A defective rail gave way on the Ohio Central Railroad on Monday, and the train

was dragged some distance over the cross-ties, by which several passengers were hurt. The engine was upset and a train thrown from the track of the Springfield and Albany Railroad on Tuesday, and the passenger train from this city for Boston, on Friday afternoon, was delayed five hours by the breaking of the axle of the locomotive. Fortunately no persons were injured by the two latter accidents.

The Goshen Bank, at Goshen, Orange county, New York, was broken into and robbed of \$30,000 early on the morning of the 17th. The thieves were tracked and arrested the same morning, and the whole of the stolen money recovered. They stated that they were hired by parties in this city to commit the robbery.

Out of three thousand rebel prisoners of war, belonging to Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana regiments, lately mustered for exchange at Camp Douglas, Chicago, seven hundred and sixty refused to be exchanged. Of nineteen hundred rebel prisoners recently at Camp Morton, Indianapolis, only one-fourth consented to be exchanged.

The stock market was dull yesterday. Governments were steady. Gold was quiet, and closed down town at 109 1/2. At the evening board it closed at 109 1/2.

There was but little change in the position of commercial affairs on Saturday, though everything was more quiet, as usual, on the last day of the week. Holders of merchandise anxiously watch the gold quotations now-a-days, and it is pretty evident that with the continuous stream of Union successes a general collapse is apprehended. Business was very moderate both on and off Chicago. On Chicago four declined 1/2, while wheat was a trifle off. Corn was quiet, but a shade firmer, while oats were 1/2 higher. Pork was in moderate demand at lower rates. Beef was active and firm. Lard was easier. Whiskey was dull and depressed. Freight was very quiet and rates nominal.

The Certainty of Our Triumph—The Effect of Our Success in Europe.

The absolute certainty of our success is the present feature of the military situation. Do what he may there is not the least chance that the enemy can change the result. Every possibility of the military situation leads to the same end—rebel ruin and national triumph. No manipulation of the pieces can show any other close for the grand game. Four developments of the struggle are regarded as possible. Lee may stand still, concentrate on his present position the forces under Beauregard, Hardee and Bragg, and fight it out in the last ditch style where he is. He may concentrate all the forces in North Carolina at Raleigh, reinforce them with a column from his immediate command, and strike at Sherman. He may concentrate his three detached columns at Lynchburg, join them there and endeavor to prolong the struggle at that point, embarrassing us by the necessity of a long line. He may concentrate at Richmond, and bide his time for an advance down the valley. The first development is the most probable. Lee is chained to Richmond, as Prometheus was to his rock. Moral and physical reasons of the most imperative nature forbid him to give it up. It is his last arsenal, his last workshop, his last foundry, and it is the last home and hope of his cause.

He cannot even risk it to reinforce the troops in front of Sherman; for, if it is to be done, it will be worse to lose it by force of arms.

But if he stays there to make his final fight, let him make it as stubbornly as he will, he must inevitably be beaten, as Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Schofield close in on his lines, cut off his supplies and overwhelm him with numbers. This, like all similar operations, is a question of time. If he concentrates near Raleigh a force of sixty, eighty, or a hundred thousand men—if he puts his whole available force in front of Sherman—Sherman, reinforced by Schofield, will beat it as sure as the sun shines. Many regard this development as probable, and hold that a large part of Lee's army is in readiness to move for this purpose. If Lee goes to Lynchburg he increases the demoralization of his army and exposes himself to all the chances of an open campaign on a new theatre. In that campaign he will be matched against two of the greatest masters of strategy that have arisen in this age, and there will be against him an overwhelming preponderance of numbers. Both reasons are also against a movement down the valley and against toward Sherman. Either would be sufficient. Lee cannot cope with Grant and Sherman if even he had equal force. But the disparity of force is inevitably fatal. The great Napoleon maintained with the utmost positiveness that, though chance, audacity or genius might enable an inferior force to triumph on the field of battle, it was never so in extended strategic operations. In these, in a whole campaign, numbers handled with anything like equal skill will always prevail. We may with perfect safety accept that opinion as definitive in the present case.

This absolute certainty of success is due in the greatest measure to our many recent triumphs. It would have been premature to argue such success against all contingencies before we had taken Wilmington and shut out the possibility of foreign assistance, or before it had been demonstrated that Sherman could sweep across South Carolina as easily as he did across Georgia. But now it is seen that there is only Lee to face both our great leaders, and Fort Fisher, Wilmington, Charleston, Branchville and Columbia are so many pieces of handwriting on the wall that tell the enemy's doom. Those victories have shown us the certainty of our triumph; but what will be their effect in Europe? What will Napoleon say to these demonstrations of our power? What will their effect in England, where a hostile and venal press has, through four years, attempted to "write us down," and insisted upon the foolish absurdity of supposing that we could succeed? We believe that the result will be hardly less than revolutionary in both countries. In France our victories will announce the doom of that Mexican empire that Napoleon is committed to, and in England they will cause an immense reaction in public sentiment. Every lie told against us in the last four years will help that reaction. What a view it will give of popular government if one so weak as ours has been pictured can put down a rebellion of such an unconquerable and powerful people as southern sympathizers have declared the rebels to be? And if such a fighting race as these Southern men—so numerous, so spirited, so ably commanded—cannot make head against our power, who can? These are the questions that already float in the European mind, and that Europe yet cannot answer. We shall receive a great deal of civility from England and France in the next six months.

SMALL POTATOES.—While the victorious movements of the army of the Union, under the directions of Gen. Grant, are absorbing the public attention and admiration, it appears that the little Presidential game for the spoils of this city still goes on between the Chase faction and the Seward faction at Washington. We understand that Thurlow Weed is as earnestly engaged in this business as if the fate of the Union depended upon it; and that there has been quite a tempest in a teapot in the Senate upon the momentous issue of the confirmation

of Abram Wakeman as Surveyor of this port. What part the Chief Justice of the United States or the Secretary of State plays in this petty farce we cannot tell; but it is said that each has his position behind the scenes, and in view of the Presidential succession. If this is true, this juggling and shuffling between the Chase faction and the Seward faction is a miserable farce indeed.

The Removal of the State Capital—New York the Real Metropolis.

We publish in another column this morning a very interesting budget from our Albany correspondent in regard to the contemplated removal of the State capital. It seems that the members of the Legislature are thoroughly in earnest in this effort to get out of Albany and get rid of Albanian influences and corruptions. The select committee appointed by the Senate have already issued a circular, to the mayors of the different cities and the heads of the different villages in the State, inviting proposals and inducements in connection with the selection of a new site for the Capitol buildings. This circular simply asks what is the population of the city, town or village addressed; how accessible is it; what is its record as regards salubrity, and what temptations in the way of lands or money it can offer the State government. Several informal replies have already been made to this last question. Ithaca offers one hundred acres of land and half a million of dollars. Rochester offers two hundred thousand dollars and thirty-five acres of city lots. Brooklyn offers two millions of dollars and a site for the necessary buildings. New York city offers a public park, from the Battery to Kingsbridge, for the Capitol, a hundred feet on Fifth avenue for the Governor's residence, and will erect all these edifices free of expense to the State. Pending these offers the Legislature took a recess for seven days, that the members might consult with their home governments and the proposals be made in due and regular form as soon as possible.

It is a singular fact that the capital of this great State has never yet been determined by law. New York city was the first capital, and around her all the grand, old associations and traditions of the State are grouped. Albany was merely the capital by accident, and its very name has now become synonymous with infamous legislation. Against the spurious claims of that good-for-nothing little hamlet all ideas of geographical centres, and every city contends that it is as accessible as any other. Syracuse, famous for salt which has not lost its favor, pretends to be the political centre of the State, on the ground that the political conventions are being held there; but we believe that a far stronger argument in favor of Syracuse would be that its salt might exercise a preservative influence upon the legislative morals. Auburn—"loveliest village"—wants to be the capital, because its prison would keep the legislators virtuous by reminding them of their ultimate fate if they proved corrupt; but the difference between the State Legislature and the State Prison is not very clear at present, and there is danger that if the capital were located at Auburn the candidates for one institution might be sent to the other. Saratoga has pretensions, based upon the purgative and purifying effects of its waters, and the refinement of its fashionable society; but legislators do not usually drink water, and the good society at Saratoga is absent during those months when the Legislature is in session, and only present during the dog days, when the Legislature has adjourned. Rochester and Ithaca present no advantages except those of a pecuniary sort, and are outbid by Brooklyn; but Brooklyn, although it calls itself "the City of Churches," is one of the most immoral communities on this side the Atlantic, and furnishes nine-tenths of the divorce and seduction cases in this vicinity, and has already given up its best site to Greenwood Cemetery. Therefore, having no desire to lead our innocent lawmakers into the temptations of vicious females, or to offer them a graveyard for a Capitol site, we must rule out the proposal of Brooklyn and recur to that of New York.

The idea of locating the new Capitol down by the Bowling Green, where the old Province House once stood, is a fine antiquarian notion, and commends itself to the consideration of all lovers of the dusty, musty, dusty records of the past. Still, this is an age of progress, and we do not see why our municipal authorities should wish to put our Capitol in a location which everybody is leaving for up-town sites. Manhattan square, directly opposite the grand entrance to the Park on Eighth avenue, is a proper place for the splendid edifice which this city will erect for the reception and accommodation of the worthy gentlemen who preside over our destinies. This square is the property of the city, and has been so for twenty years past, during which time it was devoted to pig-sties—a fate from which the Central Park Commissioners proposed to redeem it by devoting it to wild animals as a zoological garden; but our proposal to transform it into a garden for the cultivation of prize and model legislators will of course supersede that plan, and the zoological affair may be located elsewhere. Manhattan square overlooks the Park, the city and the East and North rivers; so that the loveliness of nature will soften and enlarge and chasten the minds and hearts of those who now think only of the lobby and the grinding committee. The Capitol buildings will be of the whitest marble, emblematical of the purity of those who meet therein, and will be surrounded by a beautifully gilded dome, which will serve equally as a beacon for tobacco-chewing skippers on the sea and ambitious politicians on the shore. Washington Heights may be even a better site than Manhattan square; but we shall not urge its merits at present, being content to let the legislative commissioners see and choose for themselves. After all, the best point about the New York proposal is that, like a good bill, it goes into effect immediately. Our new Court House, adjoining the City Hall, will be finished next year; so that the Legislature may meet there for its next session, and remove to other quarters within our limits at its own convenience. In this view, as in many others, New York completely outwits all the interior cities, towns and villages; but still we advise them to put in the best proposals they can muster and not to despair of the result. The fable of the tortoise distancing the hare may come true. We are a great city, but we have rather a slow set of officials, and one of the smart little western players may get ahead of us in the end.

Mr. Sumner's Speech.—Of all the ablest radicals in Congress, Mr. Sumner appears to be the most radical and intractable. His one idea of negro equality carries him to extremes in everything. His latest discovery is that Louisiana, as reconstructed by President Lincoln and General Banks, has not a republican form of government. He does not object to it as a tinkering experiment, but contends that it is not a republican government, because the blacks of the State have had no hand in its formation, and because they are excluded from "that perfect and complete freedom from all oppression, and that equality before the law," which it is the duty of Congress to guarantee to the people of every State. This is a most preposterous as that other absurd idea of the visionary Senator; that only three-fourths of the loyal States are needed to ratify the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. Upon this point, however, Mr. Sumner is consistent, at least with his own theory that by this war the rebellious States have ceased to be States, and have been reduced to the political condition of an extensive, primeval, unorganized territory, from which new States in any number and of any size may be carved out by Congress. It is well that these transcendental and fanciful negro worshippers of the school of Sumner are few in numbers; for if they had the power the country would be reduced to the chaos of universal anarchy in order to rebuild it on the corner stone of negro equality.

THE NUMEROUS RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.—Since the commencement of the present year there have been forty-five railroad accidents attended with loss of life or personal injury. Sixty-one persons have been killed and four hundred and forty-one injured. Our exchanges are filled with accounts of collisions, cars thrown down embankments—either our railroads are constructed entirely upon embankments, or the weakest portion of the road is where there is the most danger—cars breaking through or running off bridges, explosions of locomotives, &c. Many of these casualties, fortunately, are unattended with serious injury to passengers or employees. But the record is fearful enough as it is. Sixty-one killed and four hundred and forty-one wounded! More than one decisive battle has been fought since the commencement of our war with less terrible results. The whole number of the same class of accidents during the past year—a year unprecedented in its results in the history of the country—was one hundred and forty, with four hundred and four persons killed and fourteen hundred and eighty-eight wounded. At the rate we are now progressing the record of the year 1865 will far exceed that of 1864. Is there no remedy for such slaughter? Is there no legislation that can abate these frightful accidents?

A GRADUAL LETTING DOWN.—The financiers of the Times contend that the present and very gradual and slow decline in the price of gold is a very good thing; whereas a rapid descent to par value with our paper money would be a very bad thing for the country. This, we presume, is the opinion of every dabbler in fancy stocks or kite flying schemes in Wall street. A sudden and heavy fall in gold would kill them; but, with a gradual letting down, they may possibly escape among the lame ducks.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.—There is hardly a chance that the Bankrupt bill before Congress will be worked up into a law this session; but, from present appearances, it is one of those measures which may require the call of an extra session in the course of the coming summer. Nothing but a Bankrupt law can lift our commercial classes from the numerous wrecks of the rebellion.

THE CASE OF BEALL.—It is not true that Major General Dix was present at Beall's execution. Major Dix, his aid, was present, and hence, probably, the misapprehension. Beall did not write a letter to Major Dix, as has been stated. But he did write a letter to General Dix, to be delivered after the execution, thanking the General for his kindness to him during the last days of his imprisonment.

The North American Outward Bound.—The steamship